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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2533
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 000356

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/06/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL PANEL TO START FINAL DELIBERATIONS
FEBRUARY 7

REF: BAGHDAD 320

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT S. FORD, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B)
AND (D).

[¶1.](#) (C) Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) UN International Commissioner Craig Jenness and UN Legal Adviser to the IECI Jose Maria Aranaz told poloffs February 5 that the final court decisions on the appeals could be completed as early as February 8. Aranaz explained that the Transitional Electoral Panel (TEP) expected to complete formal hearings by February 6, and would start deliberating on final decisions February 7. He added that of the original 24 appeals that were submitted to the IECI, only 13 were eventually filed with the TEP. Of this number, one appeal was rejected outright by the TEP, and two other minor cases were decided in favor of the IECI. Jenness was not surprised that about half of the appeals ended up at the TEP, offering that the pre-TEP review by the IECI likely gave pause to some appellants to reassess the value of moving their respective appeals forward. He added that he did not expect the TEP to accept any more appeals, and that the judges appeared intent on completing their work without any delay.

[¶2.](#) (C) Jenness said that given the current timeline, the IECI could be able to issue certified results as early as February [¶12.](#) Both Jenness and Aranaz noted that the most important appeals still await a final decision, including the UIA List 555 appeal on the formula used to allocate governorate seats. This, and similar appeals filed by other parties, would have the greatest impact on the election outcome, if upheld by the TEP. Both Jenness and Aranaz said they remained cautiously optimistic that the TEP would rule in favor of the IECI.

[¶3.](#) (C) Comment: The most significant appeals were submitted by 555, Iraqi Turkoman Front List 630, and the Kurdistan Gathering List 730. Although the IECI must await a final decision before announcing certified results, various IECI officials have repeatedly expressed confidence that the election seating allocation will not be affected by the ultimate TEP decisions.
KHALILZAD